UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22114
18 January 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics entitled "Military operations in the Persian Gulf and action taken by the Soviet Government".

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yuliy VORONTSOV

READEX
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Annex

Decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

After having heard and reviewed the communication of Mr. A. A. Bessmertnykh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the situation in the Persian Gulf, and deeply regretting that the crisis has taken a tragic turn and is in fact becoming a conflict of vast proportions, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR decides:

1. To support the statement made by M. S. Gorbachev, President of the USSR, on the military operations in the Persian Gulf and the action taken in that regard by the Soviet Government.

2. To emphasize that it is necessary for the Government of the USSR, in keeping with the policy pursued by the Soviet Union in the Persian Gulf conflict, to keep the Supreme Soviet of the USSR regularly informed of developments in the Persian Gulf; and to communicate to the Cabinet the proposals and comments made by the people's deputies of the USSR during their consideration of the question.

3. To assign responsibility to the International Affairs Committee of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for centralizing information on the question and communicating it to the people's deputies.

On behalf of the people's deputies of the USSR who represent the various parliamentary groups and associations, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR appeals to the parliamentarians of all countries to use their influence and do everything possible to obtain the immediate cessation of military operations.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR urgently requests the United Nations and its Secretary-General to renew initiatives aimed at resolving the crisis in the Persian Gulf and preventing it from spreading further.

A. LUKYANOV
Chairman of the Supreme Soviet
of the USSR

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22115
21 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter of 17 January (S/22097) and in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 678 (1990), I have the honour to inform you on behalf of my Government that the armed forces of the United Kingdom in association with those of other States co-operating with the Government of Kuwait have continued their military action pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of resolution 678 (1990).

The United Kingdom's objectives are as before to bring about Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Government of Kuwait, and re-establish international peace and security in the area, and to uphold the authority of the United Nations.

Operations by United Kingdom forces have involved aerial attacks on Iraqi installations supporting Iraq's capacity to sustain its illegal occupation of Kuwait. The instructions issued to our pilots are to avoid causing civilian casualties so far as possible. British commanders have also been briefed on the locations and significance of sites of religious and cultural importance in Iraq, and operations will take account of this.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/22116
21 January 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAURITANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you below the text of the statement concerning the new developments in the Gulf region made at Nouakchott on 18 January 1991 by the Minister of Information, speaking on behalf of the Mauritanian Government:

"The Gulf crisis has now entered a particularly dangerous phase.

"Since Thursday, 17 January 1991, Iraq has been the target of serious aggression.

"From the condemnation and embargo decided upon by the United Nations to the blockade and the deployment of a highly sophisticated and impressive military arsenal in the region, no means of demonstrating the firm resolve to destroy Iraq and its economic and military potential has been neglected. All of this has rapidly gone beyond the proclaimed objective of liberating Kuwait.

"Under these exceptionally serious circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which has in the past expressed in connection with this crisis its rejection of the occupation of Kuwait as well as its condemnation of the presence of foreign forces in the region, cannot refrain from its duty of condemning this aggression and reaffirming its solidarity with the Iraqi people in this ordeal.

"The Arab nation, the Islamic Ummah and all peace-loving peoples who espouse the cause of justice must without further delay acknowlege the extent of the risks and work actively for an immediate halt to the hostilities and the installation of a climate of peace and security which can guarantee the solution by peaceful means of all the region's problems."

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Mohamedou OULD MOHAMED MAHMOUD
Permanent Representative

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/22117
21 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my earlier letter of 21 January (S/22115) I have the honour to inform you on behalf of my Government that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been obliged to make clear to the Iraqi authorities its concern about Iraq's compliance with the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions in its response to the military action undertaken by the United Kingdom and other States pursuant to SCR 678. Two separate demarches have been made to the Iraqi Ambassador in London on 19 January and 21 January.

On 19 January the Iraqi Ambassador was asked whether the Iraqi Government was holding any British prisoners of war and reminded of Iraq's obligations under the Third Geneva Convention to notify the names of any prisoners held and to arrange access by the ICRC. The Iraqi Ambassador gave an assurance that any British prisoners of war would be treated in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and that their names would be given to the ICRC. He drew attention to the first military communiqué of the Iraqi Government which contained such assurances and called on the civilian population to treat any servicemen humanely.

In the light of television and news agency reports on 21 January indicating that captured British airmen had been displayed on Iraqi television, the Iraqi Ambassador was summoned again. He was told of the British Government's acute concern. Article 13 of the Geneva Convention provides that "Prisoners of war must at all times be protected particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity". There had also been news agency reports that the Iraqi authorities were considering sending the captured POWs to strategic sites in Iraq. This would be a serious breach of Iraq's obligations under the Conventions. We expected scrupulous compliance with the Conventions in respect of all British prisoners of war including British servicemen. The Iraqi Ambassador was reminded of the responsibility of his Government and of individual Iraqis for any grave breach of the Conventions.

The Iraqi Ambassador was also reminded on 21 January of Iraq's obligations under the 1925 Geneva Protocol in respect of chemical and biological weapons. The United Kingdom would take the severest view of any use of these weapons by Iraq.

The United Kingdom sought an assurance that Iraq had no intention of using chemical or biological weapons. The Ambassador responded that he had no military authority to give such an assurance.

The British Government has made clear to the Iraqi Ambassador and to the International Committee of the Red Cross that for its part it will be complying scrupulously with its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The British Government will be allowing full access by the ICRC both to Iraqi prisoners of war and to Iraqi citizens detained in the United Kingdom. The ICRC have already been provided with details of and access to all Iraqi nationals held in the United Kingdom.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/936
S/22118
21 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 21 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey the following:

1. The Government and people of the Republic of the Sudan are deeply shocked and concerned at the outbreak and continuation of a massive and destructive war between Iraq and the multinational forces in the Gulf area.

2. The Government of the Sudan condemns the resort to war as a means of settling disputes as this contravenes the Charter of the United Nations and exposes international peace and security to great dangers, especially in the volatile Middle East region.

3. The Government of the Sudan appeals to the international community to seek an immediate cease-fire in order to create the appropriate and suitable atmosphere to proceed with negotiations leading to a comprehensive peaceful settlement of all outstanding problems in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

4. The position of the Government of the Sudan with respect to the Gulf crisis has always been to seek a peaceful solution of the crisis within the Arab and Muslim framework without foreign intervention and resort to hostilities.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph LAGU
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/938
S/22119
22 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 18 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 17 January 1991 by the Government of Ghana on the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf area.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23, 35 and 69, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi N. AWOONOR
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf issued on 17 January 1991 by the Government of Ghana

The Government of Ghana wishes to express deep regret and sadness that developments in the Gulf area have resulted in the commencement of hostilities with the prospect of unprecedented loss of innocent lives and damage to property. This is a sad day for humanity. The hopes and aspirations of the international community for a new world order of peace, justice and equality are regrettably in jeopardy.

While the Government of Ghana appreciates the necessity to uphold international legality and respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, it still believes that it is not too late for diplomacy to be given a chance to avert further disaster. More particularly, it is open to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to save the people of Iraq from untold hardship and misery by agreeing to abide by United Nations Security Council resolutions. Meanwhile, the Government of Ghana calls upon Iraq and the allied forces to exercise restraint and, if possible, cease hostilities.

In terms of history, President Saddam Hussein must be seen as a product of frustration over centuries of marginalization of Arab interests. In the contemporary context, the problem of Palestine cries out for urgent solution. The Government of Ghana once again calls upon the international community, particularly the Western Powers, to do everything possible to convene as early as possible an international conference under United Nations auspices to resolve the outstanding problems of the Middle East. Only on such a foundation can peace return to the Middle East.

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Distr.
GENERAL

S/22120
21 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 19 January 1991, was addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations. In accordance with the request contained in the letter, the text is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 19 January 1991 from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to clarify the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with reference to the remarks made on 16 January 1991 by the Spokesman of the United States Department of Defense, which said the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had provided Iraq with some commodities.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been opposed to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq from the beginning of the Gulf crisis and wished for its peaceful settlement not by means of war.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, out of such a consistent position, has provided nothing to Iraq.

This position was clearly indicated in the telegram (S/21704, annex) sent on 1 September 1990 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Notwithstanding the truth, the United States invented a false report in a bid to disgrace the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Such an attempt is construed as none other than an ill-purposed act to defame the continued peace-loving positions and efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is urged that the United States give up such an awkward attempt to disgrace blindly the other for its own political aim.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22121
21 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith text of the statement issued by the Government of Pakistan on the outbreak of hostilities in the Persian Gulf. I shall be grateful if this letter, along with its enclosure, could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Text of the statement by the Government of Pakistan on the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf issued on 17 January 1991

"The Government and the people of Pakistan have been deeply shocked and anguished at the outbreak of hostilities between Iraq and the multinational forces. Pakistan had consistently called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis and is profoundly concerned that the efforts for a peaceful solution have failed.

Pakistan's position and that of the international community to seek an Iraqi withdrawal from the brotherly Muslim country of Kuwait has been based on upholding fundamental principles of international law and inter-state conduct. International peace, security and sovereign independence of small and vulnerable states depend on the respect of these principles which were reflected in the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the OIC and the Arab League. It is regrettable that, in spite of the numerous appeals by world leaders, including the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Iraq could not be persuaded to agree to the withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait.

On its part, the Government of Pakistan has made a number of efforts to avert the conflict. In October, last year, Pakistan had joined five other Asian Islamic countries in calling upon President Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the true Islamic spirit and for the unity and solidarity of the Ummah. The trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey held on 3rd of January 1991, had appealed for a peaceful solution to the crisis through the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. The meeting had also requested the Secretary-General of the OIC to exert all efforts for a peaceful solution including the possibility of the holding of an emergency meeting of the OIC. Pakistan had also endorsed the call by Iran for the holding of an emergency Summit meeting of the OIC. The Prime Minister addressed messages to fourteen Heads of State/Government directly involved, impressing upon them the need to find a peaceful solution to the problem. The Prime Minister had also sent a direct appeal to President Saddam Hussein to implement UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw from Kuwait in order to achieve a peaceful resolution of the crisis and save the Muslim people of the region from a major conflagration.

The Government and the people of Pakistan are deeply distressed at the failure of sustained peace efforts and the outbreak of war which could be disastrous for the region and particularly for the Islamic countries. It is our hope that statesmanship will prevail and the conflict will be brought to an end quickly to save human lives and suffering and to give peace another chance. Pakistan stands ready to support and undertake all efforts to restore peace on the basis of principles and resolutions of the UN Security Council."

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GENERAL

S/22122
21 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of my Government, I request that you distribute as documents of the Security Council the following diplomatic notes which have been given to the Iraqi Chargé d'affaires in Washington. These notes concern the presence in the Persian Gulf of U.S. hospital ships, the Third Geneva Convention, and Iraqi treatment of prisoners of war.

The United States also protests the announcement of the intention of the Government of Iraq to hold prisoners of war as hostages or to use them as human shields in flagrant violation of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING

Annex I

The Government of the United States calls upon the Government of Iraq to respect its obligations under the International Laws of armed conflict including the Geneva Conventions on the protection of the victims of war and The Hague Conventions on the conduct of hostilities on land and at sea. The Government of the United States expects the Government of Iraq to respect its obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 not to use chemical or biological weapons.

Hostilities must be conducted in a manner so as to minimize injury to civilians. The civilian population, as such, as well as individual civilians, should not be the object of attack. Medical personnel, medical facilities and hospital ships must be respected and protected at all times. In resolutions 670 (1990) and 674 (1990), the United Nations Security Council specifically called upon Iraq to abide by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Government advises the Government of Iraq that the United States intends to treat captured members of the armed forces of Iraq in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of prisoners of war. Iraqi prisoners of war will not be mistreated and will be provided humane and safe detention and medical care. They will not be exposed to danger, insults or public curiosity. They will not be maltreated or misused to obtain military information or for propaganda purposes. They will not be denied food, water or medical treatment. They will be safeguarded against harm during combat operations.

The United States expects Iraq to provide the same treatment to members of the U.S. and other coalition armed forces captured by Iraq, in accordance with Iraq's obligations under the Geneva Conventions. We specifically expect the Government of Iraq to provide documentation on prisoners of war in accordance with the convention and to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with access to prisoners of war as will be done by the United States.

The Government of the United States reminds the Government of Iraq that under International Law, violations of the Geneva Conventions, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, or related International Laws of armed conflict are war crimes, and individuals guilty of such violations may be subject to prosecution at any time, without any statute of limitations. This includes members of the Iraqi armed forces and civilian government officials.

Department of State,
Washington, January 19, 1991

Annex II

The Government of the United States confirms to the Government of Iraq the earlier notification provided by circular note dated Washington, November 16, 1990, of the names and descriptions of the two United States military hospital ships present in the waters off the Arabian Peninsula, as well as their purpose and their markings.

The United States desires that all nations know of the presence of these hospital ships in the region and the expectation of the United States that those ships will be afforded the protections to which they are entitled under international law, including the Geneva Convention (II) of 12 August 1949 for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea, to which all parties to the conflict are party. As noted in the circular note:

- The two hospital ships are "USNS Mercy" (T-AH 19) and "USNS Comfort" (T-AH 20). These two converted San Clemente class tankers, ex-SS Worth ex-SS Rose City, have identical characteristics: tonnage 54,367, gross, 35,958 net; dimensions feet (meters) 894 length, 105.6 width 32.8 draft, i.e. depth, (272.6 x 32.2 x 10 meters); one mast forward, one funnel aft.

- Both ships are equipped specially and solely to assist, treat, and transport wounded, sick, and shipwrecked.

- The exterior surfaces of both ships are white, with dark red crosses painted on each side of the hulls and on the horizontal surfaces.

Department of State,
Washington, January 19, 1991

Annex III

On January 19, 1991 the Government of the United States informed the Government of Iraq that it intends to treat captured members of the Iraqi armed forces fully in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention relative to the protection of prisoners of war and that the United States expects Iraq also to comply fully with this humanitarian convention.

The Government of the United States has heard audio recordings of Iraqi television broadcasts which purport to be interviews with captured American and coalition military personnel, and has heard other accounts of such broadcasts. The Government of Iraq appears to have subjected these men to unlawful treatment for propaganda purposes and coercion - both physical and mental - in order to secure information and statements from them. If these broadcasts are authentic, Iraq has committed serious violations of the Third Geneva Convention.

The Government of the United States protests the apparently unlawful coercion and misuse of prisoners of war for propaganda purposes, the failure to respect their honor and well-being, and the subjection of such individuals to public humiliation. All of these actions are in violation of the Convention.

The mistreatment of prisoners of war is a war crime, and the inhumane treatment of prisoners of war is a grave breach of the Convention. The United States demands that Iraq immediately desist from any further illegal action and that it respect its obligations under the Geneva Convention.

The Government of the United States again reminds the Government of Iraq that prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated and must be afforded food, water, clothing and every guarantee of hygiene and healthfulness. It is requested that the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has representatives in Baghdad be provided immediate access to any prisoners of war.

Department of State,
Washington, January 20, 1991